



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



Summary of 2012 Pike Suppression Results on Box Canyon Reservoir of Pend Oreille River

Mechanical removal of pike using gill nets in Box Canyon Reservoir resulted in the removal of 5,808 northern pike in 2012. Biologists sampled 131 northern pike in the 2012 Spring Pike Index Netting (SPIN) relative abundance survey. This resulted in a catch rate of 2.3 northern pike/net-night, between Riverbend and Pioneer Park, which was just shy of the target of ≤ 1.73 northern pike/net-night for that reach of the reservoir. Anglers harvested 233 pike in the two fishing derbies held in 2012.

Phase 1- Mechanical Removal March 19 – April 22:

- Continuous netting of known slough spawning locations
- Two 2-3 man crews worked 7 days/week. 12-20 nets/day
- Total nets deployed: 524

Northern pike catch summary (2012 Phase 1):

- Total catch 4,552 NP, 7.3 mT (16,086 lbs)
- Overall size range 169-1,220 mm TL (7-48 inches), weight 190-15,195 g (.5-34 lbs.)
- Males averaged 577 mm TL (23 inches)
- Females averaged 608 mm TL (24 inches)
- Sex ratio 45% female, of which 61% were mature
- Removed 1,187 mature pre-spawn females and 798 immature females
- 15% of catch less than 450 mm (18 inches) indicating two strong year classes (1-2 year olds)

Phase 2 - Mechanical Removal April 27 – June 13:

- Two to four net pulls per week. 18-20 nets/day
- Eliminated weekends. Equipment maintenance and scheduling conflicts reduced effort further.
- Total nets deployed 507
- Overall CPUE 2.5 NP/net, (range 0.6-4.8 NP/net)
- CPUE varied by location and duration of continuous netting. Attempted to reduce CPUE by 87% at each new location or until < 2 NP/night.

Northern pike catch summary (2012 Phase 2):

- Total catch 1,256 NP, 1.1 mT (2,511 lbs)
- Overall size range 235-1,168 mm TL (9-46 inches), weight 200-1,250 g (.4-3 lbs.)
- Males averaged 467 mm TL (18 inches), 933 g (2 lbs.)
- Females averaged 472 mm TL (19 inches), 866 g (2 lbs.)
- Sex ratio 52% female, of which 31% were spawned out
- 62% of catch less than 450 mm (18 inches) and immature

Mechanical Removal Bycatch Summary:

- 20 fish species, 17,459 individuals, >90% survival
- Incidental catch also included turtles, waterfowl, muskrat, and osprey

brown bullhead	1529	yellow perch	7439
longnose sucker	34	walleye	33
largescale sucker	175	grass pickerel	1
black Crappie	1659	lake whitefish	8
pumpkinseed	1237	westslope cutthroat trout	3
smallmouth bass	170	bull trout	2
largemouth bass	320	lake trout	1
peamouth	882	rainbow trout	44
northern pikeminnow	134	brown trout	150
tench	3611	eastern brook trout	28